ONC's Fund Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for Regional HIT Extension Centers (RHITECs)

Priority Primary Care Providers: Primary-care providers in individual and small group practices (fewer than 10 physicians and/or other health care professionals with prescriptive privileges) primarily focused on primary care; and physicians, physician assistants, or nurse practitioners who provide primary care services in public and critical access hospitals, community health centers, rural health clinics, and in other settings that predominantly serve uninsured, underinsured, and medically underserved populations

Target: 1200 priority primary care providers in 340 practices.   **Assumption: 50% are independent and 50% are hospital employed.**

Scope of Services	Type of Funding	ONC Requirements	Goals and Objectives
1. Education and Outreach	Core Support	(a) Provide for dissemination of knowledge about the effective strategies and practices to select and implement meaningful use certified EHR technology to improve quality and value of health care (b) Support regional communities of practices (c) Develop training materials and conduct training sessions	**Goal:** Use marketing techniques and educational programs to inform VT primary care providers and support their adoption and implementation of EHRs **Objective**: Develop a menu of methods for reaching primary care providers in different stages of individual or organizational change, and support the move toward EHR adoption and implementation
2. National Learning Consortium	Core Support	(a) Participate in the consortium (b) Participate in national meetings and host regional meetings (c) Use HITRC tracking system to report progress toward meaningful use by practices	**Goal:** To disseminate best practices to/from National HITRC, to VT practices & other RHITECs **Objective:** To collaborate with the National HITRC to widely disseminate best practices to assist priority primary care practices in VT & other geographic areas to achieve meaningful use
3. Vendor Selection and Group Purchasing	Direct Assistance Support	(a) Assist in assessing needs of practices, selecting EHR systems, negotiating contracts and holding vendors accountable (b) Design group purchasing to leverage volume discounts; assure highest level of service; assist in selecting highest value option c) Offer unbiased advice on best systems and services	**Goal:** To make EHR selection & deployment as simple/cost effective as possible by developing preferred vendor status with multiple vendors **Objective**: Engage in ongoing objective reviews of all EHR, technology & service vendors. Use preferred program to highlight partners to facilitate successful deployment and meaningful use.
4. Implementation and project management	Direct Assistance Support	(a) Provide end-to-end project management support including individualized and on-site coaching, consulting, troubleshooting (b) Enhance organizational readiness of practices (c) Access gaps and assist in remediating issues	**Goal:** Provide end-to-end project management support for the entire EHR implementation project life cycle to ensure effective adoption and meaningful use of EHRs **Objective:** Team with partners to provide implementation, adoption & direct project management support for achieving meaningful EHR use by primary care providers by end of 2011
5. Privacy and Security Policy	Direct Assistance Support	(a) Support practices in implementing best practices for privacy and security of patient information (b) Implement and maintain a secure exchange of health information (c) Provide network security, backup and disaster recovery (d) Identify state laws impacting privacy & security policies for HIE	**Goal:** (a) Assure a secure exchange of information among practices as they connect their EHRs to the VHIE (b) Achieve a high level of patient consent in sharing of information between treating providers using VHIE **Objective:** (a) Develop policies and procedures to protect privacy of patient information on VHIE (b) Develop training methods so practices are able to effectively follow policies and procedures (c) Develop materials to help Vermonters understand their privacy rights (d) Work with neighboring states to harmonize privacy and security procedures
6. Practice and Workflow Redesign	Direct Assistance Support	(a) Provide support for practice and workflow redesign necessary to achieve meaningful use (b) Implement & troubleshoot use of EHRs (c) Map and redesign work processes, update roles and responsibilities for providers (d) Lead continuous quality improvement activities involving rapid cycle feedback	**Goal:** Provide onsite assistance to practices to modify practice workflow to enable the integration of the EHR into their practice **Objective:** (a) Provide clinical transformation collaboratives in each HSA to prepare & manage changes & impacts of EHR implementation on workflow (b) Integrate quality management principles & improvement models
7. Progress Toward Meaningful Use	Direct Assistance Support	(a) Provide training and assistance to achieve meaningful use (b) Review utilization of practices' EHRs (c) Provide feedback and support to improve low utilization of features essential for meaningful use (d) Identify structural, technical or policy barriers and report these to HITRC	**Goal:** Increase the number of practices progressing toward meaningful use **Objective**: Assist practices onsite with integration of meaningful use into workflow redesign process
8. Functional Interoperability and HIE	Direct Assistance Support	(a) Assist practices to connect to HIE infrastructure and state based directory services (b) Meet functional interoperability needs of practices including exchange of administrative transactions, lab orders and results, medication prescriptions, quality & health reports, patient summaries, information for continuity across spectrum of care	**Goal:** Increase the implementation of standards based data exchange **Objective:** Support implementation of data exchange interfaces and capacity of practices either directly or through partner organizations
9. Local Workforce Support	Core Support	(a) Partner with local resources to promote integration of HIT into training of health professionals (b) Provide internships for local training (optional) (c) Use local training program graduates to fulfill workforce needs	**Goal:** Increase the availability of a workforce trained to directly assist practices achieve meaningful use **Objective:** Collaborate with stakeholders to establish appropriate curriculum & train a workforce to assist practices implement EHRs to achieve meaningful use